

Residential Care Home Evacuation & Mutual Aid Digital Platform Workgroup Meeting Minutes

Date: 10/21/25

Time: 9:30am-10:30am

Location: Virtual Microsoft Teams

Convening Authority

Pursuant to Section 8 of [Public Act 25-16](#), the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, in conjunction with the Commissioners of Public Health and Social Services, convened the first meeting of the Residential Care Home Evacuation & Mutual Aid Digital Platform Workgroup.

Attendance

- **(Co-Chair / State Long Term Care Ombudsman):** Mairead Painter, Daniel Beem
- **(Co-Chair Commissioner of Public Health or Designee):** Lorraine Cullen, James Augustyn
- **(Commissioner of Social Services or Designee):** Richard Wysocki (excused)
- **(RCH Representatives | Minimum of Two):** Mag Morelli, Ken Przybysz, Mary Mason, Mary Hagerty

Statutory Charge of the Workgroup

The group is tasked with examining:

1. Residential care home evacuation procedures.
2. Whether to require residential care homes to participate in a mutual aid digital platform that supports the risk management needs of health care organizations, including dedicated solutions for emergency management, inspection, testing and maintenance management, inspections management and health care coalition management.

A final report, including findings and recommendations, must be submitted to the General Assembly's Human Services, Public Health, and Aging Committees no later than **January 1, 2026**.

Meeting Proceedings

- **Call to Order:** Co-Chair Mairead Painter called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and confirmed attendance.
- **Introductions:** Members introduced themselves and described their role and perspective.
- **Approval of Previous Minutes:** The minutes from the September 23, 2025 meeting were reviewed.
 - **Motion to Approve:** Mag Morelli
 - **Second:** Rachel Goodsell
 - **Vote:** Approved unanimously.
- **Updates and Data Review**

DPH Report – Residential Care Home Closures

- James Augustyn reported that since 2021, eleven Residential Care Homes have surrendered their licenses and closed.

- Current data does not differentiate between voluntary closures and emergency evacuations.
- James will prepare refined data for the next meeting, to include:
 - Number of newly opened Residential Care Homes.
 - Removal of change-of-ownership records to reflect only new openings.
 - Mary Kate requested that closure data be posted on the workgroup webpage.
 - Mairead Painter confirmed that relevant data and resources will be added to the site / minutes and agendas as available.

- **Website and Resource Updates**

Daniel Beem confirmed that the dedicated workgroup webpage is live at:

<https://portal.ct.gov/lcop/rch-evacuation-workgroup>

Mairead shared the link in the meeting chat and encouraged members to share it with their organizations and the public.

She also highlighted the launch of the Residential Care Home Provider Resource Page, which compiles educational materials and direct links to state resources developed from the regional RCH meetings. The goal is to connect users to official source sites for current information.

<https://portal.ct.gov/lcop/rch-provider-page>

- **Discussion – Evacuations, Sheltering and HCBS Compliance**

- Mairead reported discussions with DSS regarding evacuation scenarios in which residents are temporarily sheltered at another RCH.
 - Question raised: If a resident receives Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), can those services continue during a temporary sheltering period?
 - Mairead will coordinate with DSS (Melva) to determine where guidance on HCBS-compliant RCH locations will be posted.
 - Mairead will ask if a link to that resource will be added to the workgroup webpage.
 - Mag Morelli suggested that clarification be sought on whether waiver services can be continued for individuals who are temporarily sheltered in a non-HCBS-certified setting, such as an RCH or hotel.
 - Mairead noted that this question might require CMS guidance and committed to raising it with appropriate contacts at DSS.
 - Members discussed that variability in staffing and certification requirements across RCHs affects how services can be safely delivered during emergency relocations.

- **Best Practices and Future Presentations**

- Mary Hagerty recommended contacting facilities that have experienced evacuations and successfully re-admitted residents to share their lessons learned.
- Mairead agreed and suggested inviting those providers to present at an upcoming meeting as examples of effective evacuation and return planning.

- Lorraine Cullen will contact Tony Bruno at DPH to see if he and his team can present on DPH review processes and emergency oversight.
- Mag Morelli will reach out to Andy McGuire regarding availability to discuss current SNF Mutual Aid plan best practices the state has learned at a future meeting.
- Daniel Beem, Ken Przybysz, and Mairead Painter will connect to identify one or two RCH owners who can share firsthand experiences with evacuations and temporary placements.

Action Items and Next Meeting

- **Action Items:**
 - Mag Morelli to contact Andy McGuire regarding presentation availability.
 - Lorraine Cullen to coordinate with Tony/Ray at DPH on sharing review findings and lessons learned.
 - Daniel Beem and Ken Przybysz to work with Mairead Painter to identify RCH providers who can present their evacuation experiences.
 - Mairead Painter to follow up with DSS on HCBS guidance for temporary sheltering.
 - All members to review posted materials and submit any additional resources for website inclusion.
 - DSS to review context on funding or Medicaid-related considerations.
- **Next Meeting:**
 - Tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, November 18, 2025, 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (Eastern Time), via Microsoft Teams.
 - Recurring monthly meetings will be established using a single Teams link to simplify access for participants.
 - Ombudsman's Office include on the website statutory language and reporting requirements.
 - DPH to provide data on prior residential care home closures.
 - DSS to review context on funding or Medicaid-related considerations.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Mary Hagerty

Second: Mag Morelli

Vote: Approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Minutes prepared by: Daniel Beem

Reviewed by: Mairead Painter, State Long-Term Care Ombudsman

Next Meeting

Date/Time: Tuesday, November 18, 2025, 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Microsoft Teams

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 222 070 786 704 3

Passcode: 5i8Cv272